Medical facilities for beedi workers

3783. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of medical facilities as provided by Government to beedi workers in the country;

(b) whether any effort had been made by Government to extend medical facilities to beedfi workers who in large numbers work in their residences outside the beedi factories;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any special package of medicall facilities is provided to beedi workers in the country, in view of their work being involved with tobacco which is very injurious to their health causing several lung problems;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (g) There are four hospitals at Karma (Jharkhand), Mysore (Karnataka), Gurusahaiganj (Uttar Pradesh) and Dhuliyan (West Bengal) and 206 Static-cum-Mobile dispensaries in the country exclusively for treatment of beedi workers and their dependents including those working from their homes. Construction of another three hospitals at Biharsharif (Bihar), Mukkudal (Tamilnadu) and Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) for beedi workers is in the final stage. In addition, awareness generation and health camps are organized in areas which are not covered by the existing hospitals & dispensaries. The hospitals and dispensaries provide basic health care. There are also schemes for reimbursement of cost of treatment to beedi workers for major illnesses like cancer, heart diseases & Kidney transplantation. Further there is a provision of reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals, financial assistance for domiciliary treatment for T.B. Patients.

Employment Exchanges in the country

3784. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment exchanges functioning at present in the country, State-wise/District-wise/location-wise;